

know, whether an Object glass be good or not, onely by looking upon it, without trying. This would be of good use, especially if it should extend so far as to discern the goodness of such a glass, whilst it is yet on the Cement.

### *An Account*

#### *Of Dr. Sydenham's Book, entituled, Methodus Curandi Febres, Propriis observationibus superstructa.*

This *Book* undertakes to deliver a more certain and more genuine Method of curing Feavers and Agues, than has obtained hitherto: And it being premised, *First*, that a Fever is Nature's Engine, she brings into the field, to remove her enemy; or her handmaid, either for evacuating the impurities of the blood, or for reducing it into a New State: *Secondly*, that the true and genuine cure of this sickness consists in such a tempering of the Commotion of the Blood, that it may neither exceed, nor be too languid: This, I say, being premised by the Author, he informs the Reader:

In the *First Section*, of the different Method, to be employed in the cure of Feavers, not only in respect of the differing constitutions and ages of the patients, but also in regard of the differing seasons of one and the same year, and of the difference of one year from another. As to the *Former*, he shews, in what sorts of *Patients*, and at what time of the Feaver, Phlebotomy, or Vomiting, or both, are to be used; and when and where not: In what space of time the *Depuration* if nature be not disturbed or hindred in her work, will be perform'd: When *Purgatives* are to be administred: How that *Diarrhea's* happen, if the *Patient* had in the beginning

ning of the Feaver an inclination to vomit, but no vomit was given; and that those symptoms, which commonly are imputed to a malignity, do, for the most part, proceed from the Relaxation of the tone of the Blood, caused by Medicines too refrigerating, or by the unseasonable use of Glisters in the declination of the disease. As to the *Latter*, he observes, that one of the chief causes, rendring the Cure of Feavers so uncertain and unsuccessful, is, that *Practitioners* do accommodate their observations, they take from the successful cure of some Feavers in one season of the year, or in some one year, to that of all Feavers in any season, or in any year whatsoever. And here he observes, *first*, how vigorous the blood is in the *Spring*, and how dispirited in *Autumn*; and thence regulates the letting of blood, and Vomiting, and the giving of Glisters. *Next*, how difficult it is, to assign the cause of the difference between the Feavers of *Several years*; and to prognosticate of the salubrity or insalubrity of the following part of the year: where yet he insinuates, that, when *Insects* do swarm extraordinarily, and when Feavers and Agues (especially *Quartans*) appear very early, as about *Midsummer*, then *Autumn* commonly proves very sickly. *Lastly*, what method and Cautions are to be used in the Cure of *Epidemical* Feavers.

In the *Second Section*, he treats of the *Symptoms*, accompanying *Continued* Feavers; as *Phrensies*, *Pleurisies*, *Coughs*, *Hiccoughs*, *Fluxes*, &c. Shewing, both whence they are caused, and how they are to be cured: Where having inserted a considerable *Paragraph*, touching a certain *Symptomatical* Feaver in the *Spring*, to be cured like *Plurisies*; he mentions among many *Observables*, this, as a chief one, that *Laudanum*, or any other *Narcotick* given against the *Phrensy*, in the beginning, progress, or height of a Feaver, does rather hurt, than good, but in the declination thereof, is used with good success. To all which he subjoins a particular account

compt of the *Iliac Passion* ( esteem'd by him to be sometimes a *Symptome* also of Feavers; ) not only discoursing of its cause ( a preposterous inversion of the Intestins, proceeding either from Obstruction, or Irritation, ) but adding also a very plain way of Curing the same; and that not by the use of *Quick-silver* or *Bullets* ( by him judged to be frequently noxious ) but only by *Mint water*; and the application of a Whelp to the Patients Stomach; to strengthen the same, and to reduce it again to its natural motion.

In the *Third Section*, he treats of *Intermittent Feavers*, or of *Agues*: Where he discourses of the times of the *Cold* and *Hot* fits, and of *that* of the *Separation* of the subdued aguish matter: Finds difficulty in giving a satisfactory account of the *return of Fits*: distinguishes Agues into *Vernal* and *Autumnal*: Takes notice, that as there are few *Continued Feavers*, so generally there are only *Quotidians* and *Tertians*, in the *Spring*; and only *Tertians* and *Quartans* in *Autumn*; Of which having offered Reasons, that seem considerable, he proceeds to his Method of curing them; and, laying much weight upon the said difference, he prescribes and urges different ways to be used in that cure: Interfering among other things these notes; *First*, that the Period of Fermentation in Feavers, both *Continued* and *Intermittent*, is ( if left to Natures own conduct, and well regulated, if need be, by Art ) perform'd in about 336. hours or 14 dayes; subducting in *Intermittent* ones, the hours of intermission, and counting  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours for every Paroxysm; and imputing the excursion beyond that time to the disturbance given to nature by the error of Practitioners. *Secondly*, that whoever hath had a *Quartan* formerly, though many years be pass'd, shall, if he chance to have another, be *soon* freed from it; and that a Physician knowing *that*, may confidently predict *this*.

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In the *Fourth Section*, the Author, in conformity to the Custom of those that write of Feavers, discourses of the *Small-pox*; and *First*, examining the cause of this sickness and its universality, delivers his peculiar opinion of the blood's endeavouring a Renovation or a New Texture (once at least in a Mans life) and is inclin'd to prefer the same to the received doctrine of its malignity. Then, having laid down, for a foundation of the Cure, the two times, of *Separation* and *Expulsion*, he argues as well against too high an Ebullition or too hasty a separation (by a hot diet or high Cordials) as against too languid a one (by Blood-  
ing, Purges, and Cooling medicines.) The like he does to the Time of *Expulsion*, forbidding *both* immoderate Heat (whereby Nature's expelling operation is disturbed by a precipitated and too thick a crowd of the protruded pustuls,) and too much Cooling, whereby due Expulsion is hindred. In short, he advises, to permit Nature to do her own work, requiring nothing of the Physician, but to regulate her, when she is exorbitant, and to fortifie her, when she is too weak. He concludes all, with delivering a Model of the Method, he would use for his own only Son, if he should fall into this Sickness.

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#### Advertisement.

*Whereas 'tis taken notice of, that several persons perswade themselves, that these Philosophical Transactions are publish'd by the Royal Society, notwithstanding many circumstances, to be met with in the already publish'd ones,*  
that